

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, 4-14 and 16-20 are pending after entry of the present Amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1, 4-14, and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,473,894 to Shrader et al. (hereinafter "Shrader") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0093508 to Li et al. (hereinafter "Li") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0107680 to Duggan et al. (hereinafter "Duggan") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0133603 to Mitomo et al. (hereinafter "Mitomo").

For at least the reasons provided below, it is submitted that the combination of the cited prior art fails to raise a *prima facie* case of obviousness against the subject matter defined in independent claims 1,9, and 17.

Antedating Submission:

The Applicants are submitting herewith, a copy of an invention submission form (ISF), as filed with the Assignee (Sun Microsystems) of the present application. The ISF is marked as *Exhibit 1 (A-1 to A-10)*. A declaration signed by some of the inventors of the instant application is also enclosed. The effective filing date of Li was October 18, 2001. The ISF is the standard form submitted by inventors of the Assignee. The date of the ISF is prior to the effective filing date of October 18, 2001, of Li.

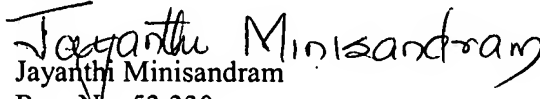
Based on the information provided in the ISF that is submitted with this response, the Applicants respectfully request that Li be removed as a reference.

The comments submitted regarding the other pieces of prior art, as noted in response to the previous office action, are herein incorporated by reference. Thus, the remaining teachings by the art, as noted in the rejection are submitted to be lacking the substance to form a proper obviousness rejection. The Applicants respectfully request that the office withdraw the rejections of the pending claims.

A notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 774-6905. If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this

Amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order.No. SUNMP019). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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